

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. This response is believed to fully address all issues raised in the outstanding Office Action mailed September 30, 2005. Furthermore, no new matter is believed to have been introduced hereby.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 19, 21, 27, 32, 33, and 42 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 18, 31, and 45 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 41 was previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-17, 19-30, 32-40, 42-44, and 46-52 remain pending.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 23-26, 38-40, and 46-52 are allowed. As detailed below, claims 36-37 which depend from the allowed claim 23 should also be allowable.

Claims 4-12, 18-20, 28-31, 34-37, and 43-45 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Outstanding Rejections

Claims 1-3, 13-15, 21, 22, 27, 32, 33, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,182,963 to Yergenson (hereinafter "the '963 patent"). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the '963 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,231,176 to Peter (hereinafter "the '176 patent"). Each of these rejections is fully addressed below.

Formalities

With respect to the outstanding rejection of claims 2-3, 13-15, 21, 22, 27, 32, 33, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the outstanding Office Action again fails to recite any support. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §706, applicant respectfully renews its request that the Office clearly articulate any rejection so that the Applicant has the opportunity to provide evidence of patentability and otherwise reply completely. The Office is additionally reminded of the requirements of M.P.E.P. §2131 that states a “claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference” (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot. However, if another Office Action is to be mailed in the present case, applicant respectfully requests a formal withdrawal of these rejections or specific support for such rejections.

CLAIMS 1, 3, 5-12

Without limiting the scope of the invention, to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to make typographical changes and in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out various embodiments, rather than to avoid prior art), independent claim 1 has been amended as detailed above to include recitations of claims 2 and 4. Since claim 4 was objected to and indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the

recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 5-12 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

CLAIMS 13-17 AND 19-20

Without limiting the scope of the invention, to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to make typographical changes and in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out various embodiments, rather than to avoid prior art), independent claim 13 has been amended as detailed above to include recitations of claim 18. Since claim 18 was objected to and indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claims 12-17 and 19-20 depend from claim 13 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

CLAIMS 21-22

As detailed above, without limiting the scope of the invention, to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to make typographical changes and in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out various embodiments, rather than to avoid prior art),

claim 21 has been amended in a similar fashion as claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claim 21 is in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons as the amended claim 1.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

CLAIMS 27-30

Without limiting the scope of the invention, to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to make typographical changes and in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out various embodiments, rather than to avoid prior art), independent claim 27 has been amended as detailed above to include recitations of claim 31. Since claim 31 was objected to and indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that claim 27 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claims 28-30 depend from claim 27 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

CLAIMS 32-35

As detailed above, without limiting the scope of the invention, to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to make typographical changes and in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more

particularly pointing out various embodiments, rather than to avoid prior art), claim 32 has been amended in a similar fashion as claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claim 32 is in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons as the amended claim 1.

Claims 33-35 depend from claim 32 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

CLAIMS 36-37

Claims 36-37 depend from claim 23 which is allowed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 36-37 should be allowable for at least similar reasons as the allowed claim 23, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

CLAIMS 42-44

Without limiting the scope of the invention, to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to make typographical changes and in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out various embodiments, rather than to avoid prior art), independent claim 42 has been amended as detailed above to include recitations of claim 45. Since claim 45 was objected to and indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that claim 42 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claims 43-44 depend from claim 42 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

Conclusion

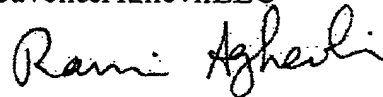
Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned if that would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zhang et al.

By His Representatives,

Caven & Aghevli LLC



Dated: October 20, 2005

By: _____

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